

[Letter from John A. Lomax to Mr. A. J. Dornbush]

Port Aransas, Texas March 27, 1939

Mr. A.J.Dornbush Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dornbush:

Your special airmail letter reached me this morning. I enclose herewith copies of two letters I wrote last night which will help give you a clearer idea of the situation at this end of the line. I have had the most meager information to work on, and your letter is the first intimation that a decision must be made quickly. I may add further in response to your specific inquiries:

1. Oscar Fox spoke of possibly four singers. He accompanies them on the piano. He mentioned the possibility of "Tex" Ritter joining his group, a very uncertain matter. Only yesterday he notified me that he was driving from San Antonio to see me Wednesday of this week. I'll wire you about him then in case I decide to change my recommendation.
2. With the information that I have before me, I think your best bet is the San Angelo group. (See enclosed a letter from their straw boss and my reply thereto; also a copy of my letter to Harold Spivacke.) I don't know whether they sing "BOOTS AND SADDLE". They sing and play as nearly like the old rangers as any I have heard. I think they use a fiddle or two. But you must remember that the original breed of cowboy yodelers is as extinct as the dodo.
3. I am sending a copy of this letter to Harold Broome at San Angelo and likewise to Mr. Spivacke. You are therefore in position to communicate direct with Mr. Broome unless I find through Mr. Fox information that will cause me to change my mind.

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4. HOME ON THE RANGE,GOODBYE OLD PAINT, JESSE JAMES, GIT ALONG LITTLE DOGIES, THE OLD CHISHOLM TRAIL,would include my choice for a ten or fifteen minute program.

5. You'll have to count my wife and myself in your White House party.

We to be in Washington in June.

Yours, John Lomax